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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Improves Qualifications of University Instructors of Tajikistan

From October 8 through December 22, 2007, professional teachers trained instructors of higher education institutions (HEI) of Tajikistan as part of the USAID Accounting/Certified International Public Accountant Project (A/CIPA). Twenty-five instructors from eight economic HEIs of the region studied Financial Accounting 1, Managerial Accounting 1, Tax & Law, and Methodology Techniques. The duration of each course was 60 hours, while the Methodology course was 20 hours, and concluded with the issuance of certificates. The training was designed to improve the process of teaching economic disciplines such as accounting, auditing, and finance that are so vital in the environment of a market economy.

In Tajikistan, the courses were held in Russian-Tajik Slavonic University in Dushanbe. The HEIs that participated in the training included the Tajik State National University, the Tajik State University of Commerce, the Technological University of Tajikistan, the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University, the Kulyab branch of Technological University of Tajikistan, the University of Central Asia, the Tajik Entrepreneurship and Service Institute, and the Tajik Agrarian University.

The introduction of contemporary training technologies into the wider educational practice of Tajikistan is important for the development of a modern system of education in the country. USAID's A/CIPA Project works to contribute to reforming and improving the standards of the state level of education. The Project's main educational goals are to create a system of qualification and professional retraining of accounting and auditing instructors, and to use the best international experiences. The skills and knowledge gained during the CIPA-based training will facilitate the development of accounting and auditing in Tajikistan, improve the quality of instruction in economic disciplines, and facilitate the graduation of specialists in demand among the nation's business community.

The program for instructors was intended to help specialists improve their professional skills and obtain additional qualifications in international accounting and auditing. The training was conducted by professional instructors possessing a designation of Certified Accounting Practitioner (CAP). The courses were reinforced by targeted intensive studying by the participants who were provided a full set of training and practice supplements on all subjects of the CIPA Program. In addition to the training in technical areas, HEI instructors were also offered a course in methodology. This course represents a unique innovative form of teaching, providing a wide audience with access to contemporary knowledge in accounting, information technologies and a methodological manual on its application.

The USAID Accounting/Certified International Professional Accountant Project is one of the many assistance projects made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since 1993, the American people through USAID have provided Tajikistan more than \$270 million in programs that support Tajikistan's health care sector, democratic institutions, education, and economic growth.

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